From: <u>Assunto, Carmen</u>

To: Taheri, Diane; McCorkhill, Michael; Durant, Jennah; Vela, Austin; Thomas, LaWanda; Webster, Susan;

McQuiddy, David

Subject: FW: BREAKING: Officials say at least 30 sent to hospital following Baton Rouge plant explosion

**Date:** Thursday, June 13, 2013 11:29:03 AM

## Sincerely,

Carmen Assunto Public Affairs Specialist U.S. EPA Region 6

Houston Laboratory
OFFICE: 281-983-2196
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From: Assunto, Carmen

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 11:28 AM

To: Gray, David

Subject: BREAKING: Officials say at least 30 sent to hospital following Baton Rouge plant explosion

BREAKING: Officials say at least 30 sent to hospital following Baton Rouge plant explosion <a href="http://www.khou.com/news/national/Explosion-reported-at-plant-southeast-of-Baton-Rouge-211391821.html">http://www.khou.com/news/national/Explosion-reported-at-plant-southeast-of-Baton-Rouge-211391821.html</a>



Credit: Witness via WAFB

**BREAKING:** Officials say at least 30 sent to hospital following Baton Rouge plant

explosion

by WAFB & KHOU & Associated Press



Posted on June 13, 2013 at 9:42 AM

Updated today at 11:24 AM

GEISMAR, Louisiana -- An explosion and fire injured several workers at a plant southeast of Baton Rouge early Thursday, <u>WAFB-TV reported</u>.

According to Louisiana State Police, the Williams Olefins plant on LA 3115 caught fire sometime around 9 a.m. Nearby residents were asked to shelter in place and keep their doors and windows closed.

Video showed a huge fireball and plume of smoke rising from the facility.

The Iberville Office of Emergency Preparedness said multiple injuries were reported to them. Six burn victims were taken to various hospitals via helicopter.

As of 10:45 a.m. emergency crews were still the scene putting out what was left of the fire.

A hazardous materials team was also on the scene. Reports are that the hazardous materials team was gearing up to decontaminate the area.

According to the company's website, it provides products to customers in the petrochemical industry. The Geismar plant produces 1.3 billion pounds of ethylene and 90 million pounds of polymer grade propylene, both flammable gases used in industrial chemicals and plastic products.

The Olefin team is responsible for the ethane transportation business consisting of approximately 200 miles of pipelines, as well as a refinery-grade propylene splitter.

Check back for updates to this developing story.